



Spring 2006



Spotting tips for estimating...

Hail Size

HAIL SIZE	DESCRIPTION
1/4 inch	Pea Size
1/2 inch	Plain M & M Candy
3/4 inch	Penny Size
7/8 inch	Nickel Size
1 inch	Quarter Size
1 1/4 inches	Half Dollar Size
1 1/2 inches	Ping Pong Ball Size
1 3/4 inches	Golf Ball Size
2 inches	Lime Size
2 1/2 inches	Tennis Ball Size
2 3/4 inches	Baseball Size
3 inches	Large Apple Size
4 inches	Grapefruit Size
5 inches	Computer CD Size

Wind Speed

ESTIMATE	DESCRIPTION
25-31 mph	Large branches in motion; whistling heard in telephone wires
32-38 mph	Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt walking against the wind
39-54 mph	Twigs break off trees; wind generally impedes progress
55-72 mph	Damage to chimneys and TV antennas; pushes over shallow rooted trees
73-112 mph	Peels surfaces off roofs; windows broken; light mobile homes pushed or overturned; cars pushed off road
113-157 mph	Roofs torn off houses; cars lifted off ground; severe and widespread damage.

Rainfall amount and intensity

Light	Ranging from scattered drops that do not completely wet an exposed surface regardless of duration to a condition where individual drops are easily seen; slight spray is observed over pavement; puddles form slowly; sound on roofs ranges from slow pattering to gently swishing; steady, small streams may flow in downspouts. Hourly accumulation of rain is up to .10 inches per hour with a six minute accumulation up to .01 inches.
Moderate	Individual drops are not clearly identifiable; spray is observable just above pavement and other hard surfaces; puddles form rapidly; downspouts on buildings are 1/4 to 1/2 full; sound on roofs ranges from swishing to a gentle roar. Hourly accumulation of rain is .11 to .30 inches per hour with a six minute accumulation of .01 to .03 inches.
Heavy	Rain seems to fall in sheets; individual drops are not identifiable; heavy spray to height of several inches is observed over hard surfaces; downspouts on buildings run more than 1/2 full; visibility is greatly reduced; sound on roofs resembles roll of drums or distant roar. Hourly accumulation of rain is greater than .30 inches per hour with a six minute accumulation of more than .03 inches.